

Missy Bender, Plano ISD Trustee

Missy Bender was elected to the Plano ISD Board of Trustees in May 2006 and re-elected in 2009. She is serving her third year as Secretary of the Board.

Ms. Bender is the only member of the Board of Trustees who also graduated from a Plano ISD School. She graduated from Plano East Senior High as a member of its charter class.

Ms. Bender became a first generation college graduate when she received a bachelor's degree in Marketing from Southern Methodist University in 1987. She began her career as a management consultant specializing in solving business problems and implementing technology solutions for large distribution and manufacturing clients in North America and Europe. She has worked for Champion International, Amdahl and IBM. At IBM, she received the Golden Circle Award, the company's highest honor for its top performers.

Missy has served on the Board of Directors for the Junior League of Plano, Plano Metro Rotary Club, Forrest Outreach Foundation, and the Parent Teacher Association. She is also a graduate of Leadership Plano Class 23, Leadership St. Andrew, and Leadership TASB.

She has earned the designation of "Master Trustee" from the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) and is a Fellow with the Center for Reform of School Systems. In 2006 she was named as one of "21 Leaders for the 21st Century" by Inside Collin County Business.

Recently, Ms. Bender has joined other Trustees to create a new organization named Trustees for Texas to promote a common vision for education that prepares Texas schoolchildren for their future rather than our past.

Missy Bender is a member of the National School Boards Association, Texas Association of School Boards, North Texas Area Association of School Boards, Plano Metro Rotary Club, the Junior League of Plano, and the Texas Parent Teacher Association. She has served as a member of TASB Legislative Advisory Council, the district delegate to the TASB annual conference, the school board liaison to Practical Parent Education, Head Start Parent Policy Council, Murphy City Council, and the Plano Homeowner's Council.



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**Senate Higher Education and Senate Education Joint Committee Hearing on
Dual Credit**

Monday, May 24, 2010

My name is Missy Bender, and I am a Trustee and Secretary of the Board of Trustees in the Plano Independent School District. Today I will describe Plano ISD's dual credit delivery method, its cost, pros, cons, and opportunities.

Dual Credit Delivery Method

Plano ISD is committed to providing an excellent education to more than 54,000 students. We believe in providing students with a multitude of educational options to meet their personal objectives. To this end, Plano ISD partnered with Collin College to offer its first dual credit class to students in the Fall of 2007.

We now have 5 semesters of experience offering dual credit classes with Collin College to Juniors and Seniors on Plano ISD campuses. Dual credit classes are available to all students.

We offer 6 courses in 4 subject areas, and all courses are taught by Collin College professors. Some of the courses are single semester courses while others are two semester courses. The subject areas include US History, Government, Economics, and English. US History is only available to Juniors. Government, Economics, and English are available only to seniors.

	Course Option	Credits Available	Available to
1	US History	3	Juniors
2	US History	3	Juniors
3	Government	3	Seniors
4	Economics	3	Seniors
5	English	3	Seniors
6	English	3	Seniors
	TOTAL	18	

Collin College responds to the course demand by using its own professors and/or adjunct professors. Adjunct professors must have at least a master's degree in the area of study. Students have the opportunity to earn up to 18 hours of college credit on their home senior high school campus.

Dual Credit Schedule

Dual credit classes are offered at all 3 of our senior high campuses on a Monday, Wednesday, Friday schedule. This fits conveniently into the normal high school 50-minute class schedule on these campuses. No transportation time or cost is needed to accommodate this model.

Dual Credit Costs

Students are responsible for paying the cost of their own dual credit course, and they must purchase the associated textbook. Collin College waives the tuition for students who qualify for free and reduced price lunch; however, these students must purchase their textbook. The cost basis for the tuition-paying students is as follows:

Course	Tuition	New Textbook	Total Cost for 1 semester
US History	104	76	180
US History	104	76	104-180*
Government	104	110	214
Economics	104	113	217
English	104	143	247
English	104	143	104-247*

* The textbook for 2nd semester of a course is the same as the 1st semester. If the student already owns the textbook then the lower bound of the cost range applies to the 2nd semester.

During the 2009-2010 school year, Collin College waived tuition for a total of 38 students (12 students in Fall 2009 and 16 students in Spring 2010). All of these students qualified for free and reduced lunch.

Dual Credit Course Registration at Collin College

Students are responsible for facilitating and executing their own registration at Collin College. They are guided through this process using Exhibit 1 – Plano ISD/Collin College Dual Enrollment Information Form. In short, students must make their own application for admission at Collin College, request a transcript from the high school or senior high registrar, complete any required testing, submit all necessary paperwork, and pay for the course. The registration process and cost structure for high school students is the same as that for high school graduates.

Prerequisite Requirements (see Exhibit 1)

There are some prerequisites that must be met in order for students to take a dual credit course.

- Students must be on the Recommended Graduation Plan in order to take part in the dual enrollment program.

- Juniors must pass the 10th grade portion of the TAKS social studies test in order to take dual enrollment US History during their junior year.
- Seniors must pass the ELA part of the exit level TAKS in order to take dual English IV.
- Seniors must pass the Social Studies exit level TAKS in order to take dual enrollment US Government and Economics.
- Juniors must take the state mandated Texas Success Initiative (TSI) test at Collin College
- Seniors must take or be exempt from the Texas Success Initiative (TSI).
- Students must be willing to follow the Collin College calendar for the dual credit course.

GPA Point Value

Dual credit and Honors classes receive an additional GPA point value of 0.5.

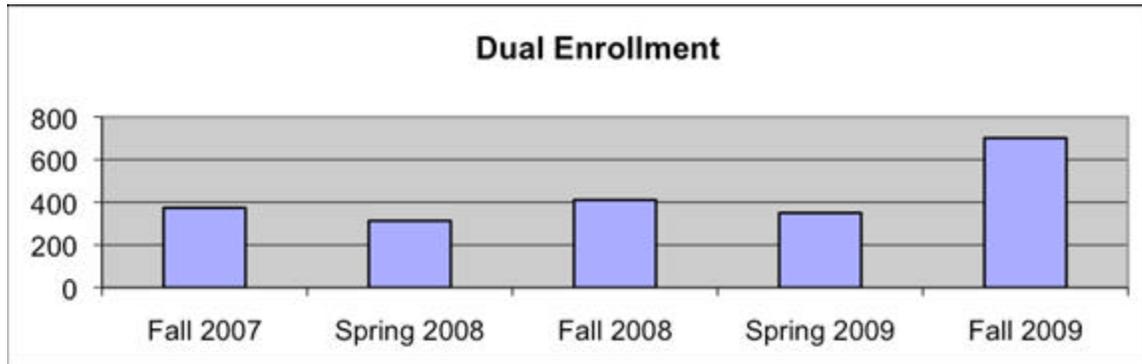
Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate classes receive an additional GPA point value of 1.0.

Enrollment

Enrollment in the dual credit program has nearly doubled since the program began in Fall 2007. It has grown from 374 students enrolled in Fall 2007 to 701 students enrolled in Fall 2009.

Fall 2007	Spring 2008	Fall 2008	Spring 2009	Fall 2009
374	313	411	350	701*

* Enrollment figure at beginning of semester



Who takes Dual Enrollment Classes?

At the end of the Fall 2009 semester, 669 students were enrolled in one or more Dual Enrollment courses. Sixty-four percent (64%) of those students were also enrolled in one or more AP classes.

By the end of Spring 2010, 632 students were enrolled in one or more Dual Enrollment courses. Sixty-three percent (63%) of those students were also in one or more AP classes.

If a student were simply seeking the additional GPA point value of 0.5, they could take an Honors course free of charge. However, students are choosing to take a dual credit course and paying for it in order to secure college credit.

Results

Plano ISD students are building a high school educational experience that includes both AP courses and dual credit courses together. These two programs are not mutually exclusive of one another. Both programs fill a need. In fact, the same student may participate in both programs at the same time.

Ninety-one (91) percent of all Plano ISD graduates continue their educational experience by attending college.

Pros/Cons

Pros
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students can earn college credit while in high school.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any student who meets the entry criteria has the opportunity to take a dual credit course in Plano ISD through Collin College.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking a dual credit class offered through Collin College lowers the overall cost basis of a student's college education.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students and parents are exposed to the college experience and its processes in a small way before being fully immersed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offering the courses on the high school campus provides for ease of integration into the student's regular schedule, and it removes the transportation barrier to the college campus that may exist for some students.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students graduate high school with a college transcript.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A student's inability to afford to pay for a dual credit course is not an obstacle to registration.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The dual credit courses that Collin College and Plano ISD offer are transferable.

Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is challenging for a school district to realize FTE savings since the district's budget cycle precedes a student's dual credit enrollment process. In other words, the campus is staffed and contract commitments are made before the campus knows how many students will opt into a dual credit class.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing the number of dual credit offerings for courses that are going to be subject to the end of course exams is risky for a school district. School districts are still held accountable for student achievement.

Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some professors would prefer not to travel to a high school campus.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents expect the high school to deal with issues involving the college professor.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common standards across all dual credit courses in the State of Texas do not currently exist.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing the number of dual credit course options is met with some resistance by Advanced Placement teachers since the AP program has such a long history and successful record in Plano ISD. (see Exhibits 2, 3, and 4)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failing a dual credit course causes failure of the high school course. This occurs 3% of the time.

Critical Success Factors

A successful, collaborative working relationship between the school district and the college institution is absolutely critical to the success of the dual credit program.

Opportunity

We would like to provide more dual credit course options for our students. At the same time, we realize that offering courses that will be subject to the State's new end of course exams is a large risk for school districts and students to take. Since dual credit courses do not currently qualify as an exemption from the new end of course exams, students must take the end of course exam and hope that the material covered in the dual credit college course is sufficient to pass the high school end of course exam. Plano ISD is accountable for the results even though it does not administer the instruction. This may be a risk that school districts and students may not be willing to take. However, I believe that this risk can be mitigated. I would like to propose a solution to address this risk in order to open

new opportunities for students.

Proposal: Allow the colleges that provide dual credit courses the chance to evaluate whether its courses address the State Standards. If the college and its school district partners agree that standards can be met, then the ISD/college partners may apply for and receive a waiver from the State acknowledging that its courses meet the Standard and will receive an End of Course exam exemption. The agreement between the college and the school districts remains a locally controlled issue that becomes acknowledged by the State.

Rationale: The issue at hand is whether or not dual credit courses meet standards. Some might and some might not. Courses worthy of exemption should be recognized and valued as such.

School districts already follow a similar protocol with Advanced Placement courses. They must make sure that the state standards are addressed within the AP course even though the College Board provides the curriculum. Current legislation allows for AP courses to be exempt from the end of course exam, so this model could also apply to dual credit courses.

Exhibit 1

**Plano ISD/Collin College
Dual Enrollment Information Form 2010 - 2011**

Student Name _____ ID# _____
 Junior Course: _____
 Senior Courses: _____

I understand that the dual enrollment classes are Collin College classes taught by Collin College instructors according to the policies and procedures of Collin College. These classes do not follow Plano ISD policies on topics such as parent contacts, grade reporting, development of the semester exam, determining the semester grade and other procedural policies.

- The student will not be considered for dual enrollment unless this form has been signed and returned to the school counselor on or before June 4, 2010.
- There is no guarantee that the classes will make. Classes are offered based on the number of students. There are a limited number of seats available in Collin College Classes.
- Juniors and Seniors will take dual enrollment classes on a Plano ISD Senior High campus.
- Juniors and Seniors must meet Collin College and Plano ISD requirements in order to participate in dual enrollment.
- Students must be on the Recommended Graduation Plan to take part in the dual enrollment program.
- Juniors must pass the 10th grade portion of the TAKS social studies test in order to take dual enrollment US History during the junior year.
- Seniors must pass the ELA part of the exit level TAKS in order to take dual English IV and must pass the Social Studies exit level TAKS in order to take dual enrollment US Government and Economics.
- The Collin College calendar listing semester start date, semester end date and vacation days does not match the Plano ISD calendar. Students are expected to follow the Collin College calendar for dual enrollment classes.
- Dual enrollment classes are honors classes and will receive honors grade points.
- Students dropping a dual enrollment class after the **5th day of the Plano ISD** semester will not move to an equivalent Plano ISD class and will not receive credit for that semester class.
- Students dropping a dual enrollment class must follow established Collin College withdrawal procedures and may receive a notation on college and/or high school transcript. Students must notify school counselor when dropping a dual enrollment class.
- Students must make a grade of 70 or better in each dual enrollment class in order to remain in the dual program.
- Students are responsible for making **application for admission** to Collin College, **requesting a transcript** from the high school or senior high registrar, and for **providing all the necessary paperwork** or **additional testing** required. Students must register for the appropriate classes and pay all required fees by **August 11, 2010 for the fall semester (first day of class August 23, 2010), December 14, 2010 for the spring semester (first day of class January 18, 2011)**. Failure to complete this **process** will result in the student being dropped from the dual enrollment class or classes.
- Students **do not have a seat** in a Collin College class until they have **applied** for admission to Collin College, **registered** at Collin College, and **paid** at Collin College or online.
- The Collin College final semester grade will be posted on the Plano ISD student report card as the final semester average for the dual enrollment class. During the spring semester, a mid-term grade will be posted on the Plano ISD report card. The grade will be used in calculating the final senior GPA and class rank.

Plano ISD students must:

- ✓ Submit this information form to the school counselor on or before June 4, 2010
- ✓ Apply for admission to Collin College online (www.applytexas.org) or in person at Collin College at least 10 days prior to Collin College registration
- ✓ Request a transcript from the high school or senior high registrar by June 4
- ✓ Juniors must take the state mandated Texas Success Initiative (TSI) test at Collin College
 - Pick up a testing referral from the Admissions and Records or Advising Office at Collin College
 - Pay for the test (\$29) at the Collin College Cashier Office
 - Take receipt and referral to schedule an appointment with the Testing Center in person for the test
- ✓ Seniors must take or be exempt from state mandated Texas Success Initiative (TSI) test at Collin College
- ✓ **Register for the classes on the Collin College/ Plano ISD priority registration date Tuesday, June 22, 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm at Collin College Spring Creek Conference Center or enroll during summer registration at Collin College (picture ID with address is required or student ID)**
- ✓ Pay tuition and fees to Collin College online or at Collin College by the deadline: August 11, 2010 – fall, December 14, 2010 – spring

Senior High

Counselor Signature/ High School

Parent Signature

Student Signature

Exhibit 2

Plano ISD's Advanced Placement History

Advanced Placement began in Plano ISD in 1973-74 with AP Chemistry. In 1974-75 we added Biology and English. In 1975-76 the program expanded to offer core classes and electives. Initially, only seniors were allowed to participate and students had to complete an application. Open enrollment began with the 1976-77 school year. In 2005, 9th and 10th grade schools began offering AP courses.

- Plano ISD has been the home to the largest AP program in Texas and the United States for several years.
- 80% of our senior high students score 3 or higher on Advanced Placement exams
- Plano ISD teachers are instructors for AP summer workshops
- Plano ISD teachers are involved in AP grading sessions in the summer
- School districts from across the nation have contacted and visited Plano ISD concerning our AP program
- Teachers, administrators, and counselors have received recognition for the teaching, administering, and advocating for Advanced Placement
- Most college applications ask, "What advanced courses have you taken in high school?"
- AP classes have national standardized curriculum with a national standardized measurement
- AP courses are taught at our 8 secondary schools and at 5 middle schools.
- AP students are provided curriculum, textbooks, and tutoring
- Plano ISD offers 31 Advanced Placement courses
- Students must meet individual college test score requirements in order to receive college credit for their Advanced Placement courses
- Rigor is part of every Advanced Placement course
- As College Board has added new courses, Plano has expanded the district Advanced Placement program
- Plano ISD teachers submit a course syllabus each year for a curriculum audit by the College Board. The course may not be listed on a student transcript as an AP class without College Board approval.

As Advanced Placement recognition grew in the college admission cycle, so did our program. Colleges look for students who have taken the most rigorous coursework available. Because the College Board offers national standardized curriculum and national standardized exams, Advanced Placement meets this rigorous coursework requirement. Our students enter college with credits and the pathway to advancement through college course requirements. Plano ISD AP students have an enhanced college selection opportunity.

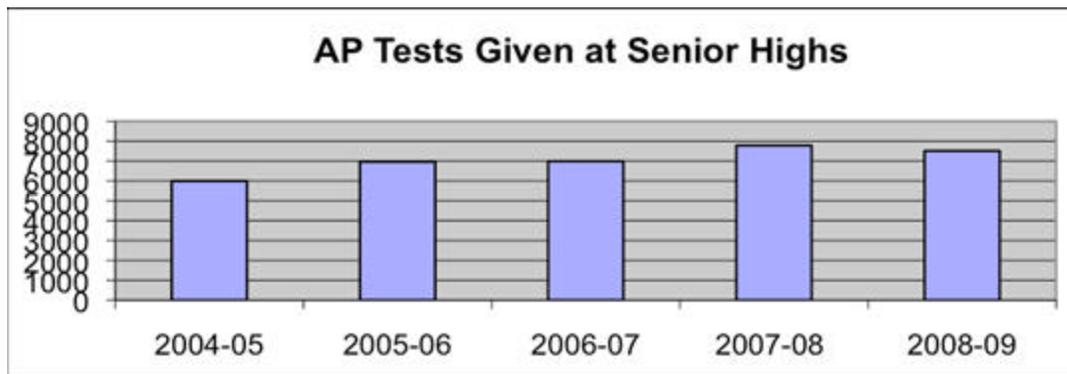
Exhibit 2

AP Results

Summary: The average number of AP tests taken by our Juniors and Seniors is 2.68 per student per year. This means that these students are taking between 2 and 3 AP classes per year. Students are receiving a score of 3 or higher on 80% of these tests.

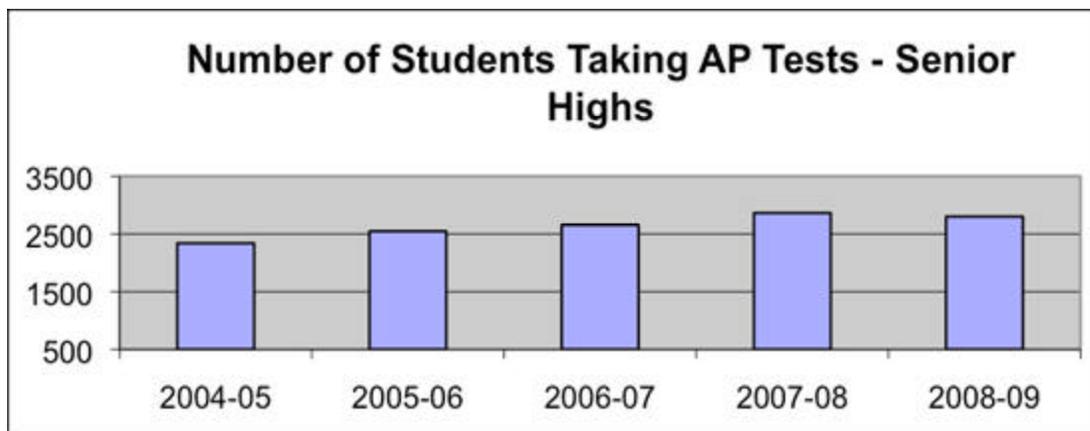
Advanced Placement Tests Given at Senior Highs (11th & 12th Grade)

2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
5994	6964	6992	7784	7513



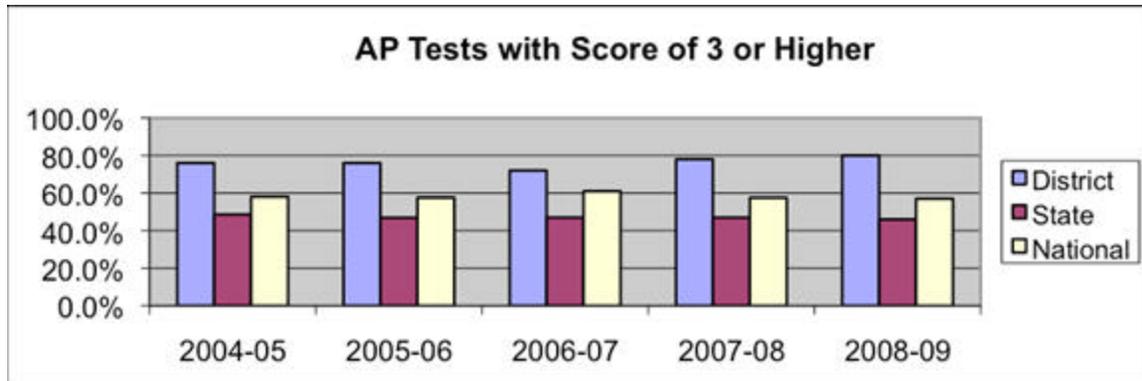
Number of Students Taking AP Tests in Senior High (11th & 12th Grade)

2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
2340	2547	2656	2864	2802



Advanced Placement Tests with Scores of 3 or Higher at Senior Highs

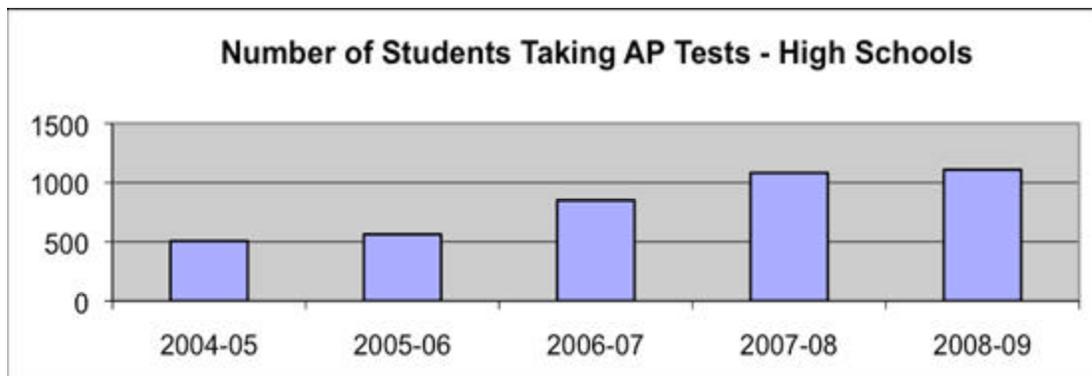
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
District	76.0%	76.0%	72.0%	78.0%	80.0%
State	48.6%	46.9%	47.0%	47.0%	46.0%
National	58.0%	57.5%	61.0%	57.40%	57.0%



Summary: The average number of AP tests taken by Freshmen and Sophomores is 1 per student per year. Students are receiving a score of 3 or higher on 64% of these tests.

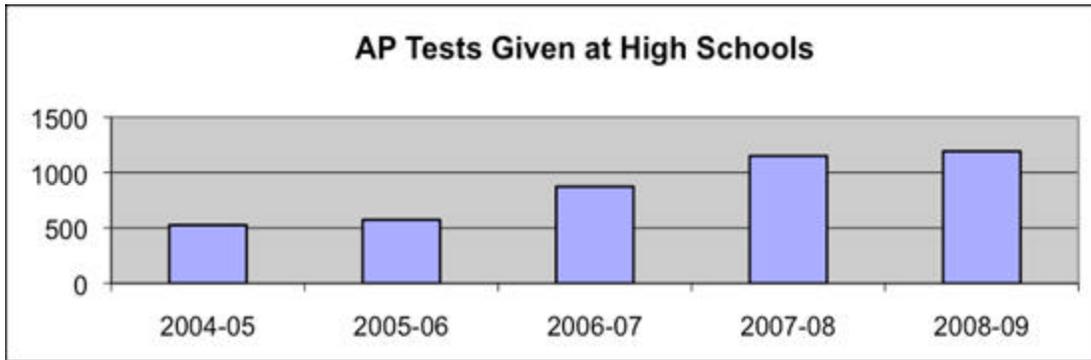
Number of Students taking Advanced Placement Tests at High Schools

2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
506	563	850	1082	1109



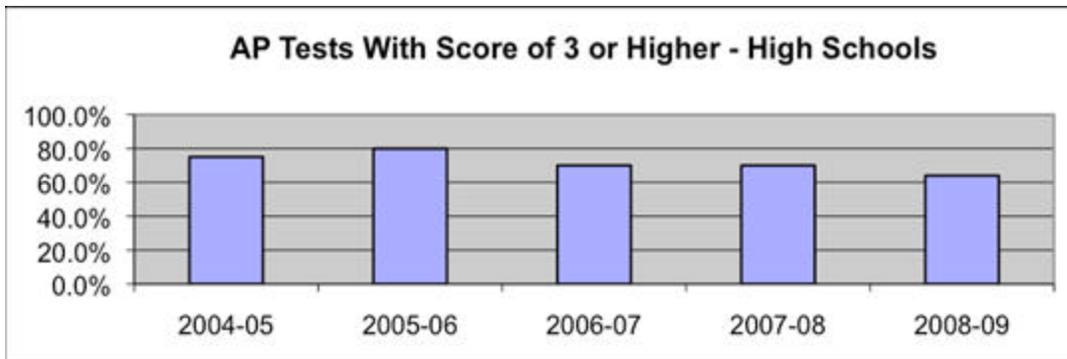
Advanced Placement Tests Given at High Schools

2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
526	574	873	1150	1192



Advanced Placement Tests Scores with 3 or Higher at High Schools

2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
75.0%	79.9%	70.0%	70.0%	64.0%



Summary: Native Spanish speaking Middle School students is can take the AP Spanish class and/or test. Students are receiving a score of 3 or higher on 80% of these tests.

Number of Middle School Students Taking Advanced Placement Spanish Tests

2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
-	101	175	124	142

Note: There is an 80% passing rate for these tests.

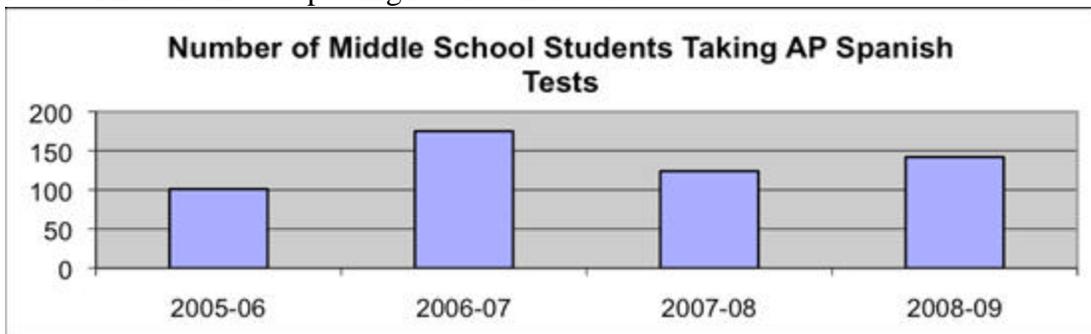


Exhibit 4

Advanced Placement Courses offered in Plano ISD

1	Art History	17	Macroeconomics
2	Art – Two Dimensional Design	18	Microeconomics
3	Art – Three Dimensional Design	19	European History
4	Art- Drawing Portfolio	20	Government – Comparative
5	Biology	21	Government and Politics – U.S.
6	Chemistry	22	United States History
7	Physics B	23	World History
8	Physics C	24	Human Geography
9	Environmental Science	25	Psychology
10	Computer Science A	26	Spanish Language
11	Calculus AB	27	French Language
12	Calculus BC	28	German Language
13	Statistics	29	Latin – Vergil
14	English Language and Composition	30	Spanish Literature
15	English Literature and Composition	31	Chinese Language and Culture
16	Music Theory		